

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERN

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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SUBJECT: SWISS GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

REF: STATE 213398

VIENNA FOR PORHANSL

1.SWISS CULTURAL ATTACHE MULLER CALLED ON CU/WE DIRECTOR STRAUS OCTOBER 3 TO PRESENT NOTE FORMALLY OFFERING PROGRAM OF THREE UNIVERSITY GRANTS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1976 (COPY OF NOTE BEING POUCH-ED).

2.PRINCIPAL POINTS IN NOTE AS FOLLOWS:

A.GRANTS INTENDED MAINLY FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH ESTABLISHED STUDY GOAL BUT NOT RPT NOT FOR CANDIDATES WHO HAVE EXERCISED A PROFESSION FOR SEVERAL YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF STUDIES, OR ARE OLDER THAN 35, OR ARE ALREADY RESIDING IN EUROPE.

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B.GRANTS ARE VALID FOR STUDY AT SWISS UNIVERSITIES AND FEDERAL POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTES, BUT NOTE EMPHASIZES THAT MEDICAL FACULTIES OF SWISS UNIVERSITIES PLUS GRADUATE IN-

STITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN GENEVA ARE OVERCROWDED AND UNLIKELY TO BE ABLE TO PLACE AN AMERICAN STUDENT.

C.GRANTS ARE FOR 10-MONTH ACADEMIC YEAR BUT ARE USUALLY EXTENDED TO 12 MONTHS FOR STUDENTS FROM OVERSEAS; GOS PAYS COST OF ROUNDTRIP.

D.SWISS EMBASSY WISHES RECEIVE FILES OF ALL CANDIDATES NLT JANUARY 26, 1976, WITH TWICE AS MANY CANDIDATES TO BE PROPOSED AS GRANTS OFFERED.

E.APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED PASS LANGUAGE EXAM AT EMBASSY IN GERMAN OR FRENCH. CANDIDATE WITH INSUFFICIENT LANGUAGE WOULD RECEIVE GRANT ONLY UNDER CONDITION OF TAKING 3-MONTH PREPARATORY LANGUAGE COURSE IN SWITZERLAND, FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL GRANT WOULD BE GIVEN.

F.MARRIED CANDIDATES MAY NOT RPT NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY FAMILIES.

G.CANDIDATES CANNOT EXPECT TO HEAR RESULTS OF COMPETITION BEFORE JUNE 15, 1976.

3.IN ENSUING DISCUSSION, MULLER MADE CLEAR THAT SWISS SCHOLARSHIPS DO NOT RPT NOT DEPEND ON U.S. RECIPROCATION. WE RESPONDED THAT, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD PROVIDE FORMAL REPLY IN DUE COURSE, WE WELCOMED SWISS PROPOSAL AND COULD SEE, AT FIRST GLANCE, NO PROBLEM WITH IT. WE ALSO STATED OUR INTENTION TO RECIPROCATATE WITH LIKE NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS AND OUR WILLINGNESS, AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, TO PICK UP ALL IIE COSTS.

4.MULLER ASKED IF SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR U.S. STUDENTS INVOLVING IIE PRE-SCREENING AND BFS APPROVAL COULD BE EXTENDED TO PRESENT 10 CANTONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND WE INDICATED NO DIFFICULTY. WE DID NOT RPT NOT RESPOND POSITIVELY, HOW-UNCLASSIFIED

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EVER, TO INQUIRY ABOUT OUR WILLINGNESS ALSO TO PICK UP IIE COSTS THESE SCHOLARSHIPS STATING WE NEEDED TO CONSULT FURTHER THIS SUBJECT.

5.BECAUSE SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR SWISS STUDENTS TO COME TO U.S. NEED TO BE WORKED OUR CAREFULLY WITH SWISS AUTHORITIES AND EMBASSY WE SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF SENDING EXPERT (DR. PORHANSL, EX SEC, FULBRIGHT COMMISSION VIENNA) TO BERN

TO BRIEF EMBASSY AND SWISS AUTHORITIES AND WORK OUT NECESS-
ARY DETAILS. MULLER PLEASED WITH THIS POSSIBILITY. (POR-
HANSL TRAVEL SUBJECT SEPTTEL.)

6.PLEASE KEEP DEPT INFORMED ANY PROBLEMS AS THEY DEVELOP. KISSINGER

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